

June 28, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
The United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We, the undersigned financial services institutions, ask for your support of the Dominican Republic- Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). DR-CAFTA would open markets in five Central American countries to U.S. products and goods. The agreement, which was signed on August 5, 2004, would create a competitive marketplace for goods and services in the nations of the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Implementation is long overdue, and it is my hope that Congress will swiftly pass implementing legislation.

We believe the DR-CAFTA will strengthen the economies of participating countries and will revive economies currently impacted by recession. The agreement also fosters the economic growth necessary to ensure democracy and social stability in these countries. These elements are essential to creating an appropriate economic climate for our customers and investments in the region.

Previous trade agreements with the Central American countries open the U.S. markets to nearly 80 percent of their exports. This agreement creates a unique opportunity for the U.S. to engage with their markets and assist in strengthening neighbor economies and democratic governments.

We strongly encourage you to support the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement. It is extremely important to achieve prompt passage of this important trade agreement. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact us or Joel Kopperud at 202-289-4322.

Sincerely,

**ACE-INA INSURANCE**

**AEGON USA, INC.**

**AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY**

**AMERICAN GENERAL FINANCIAL  
SERVICES, INC./AIG**

**THE CHUBB CORPORATION**

**CITIGROUP INC.**

**CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON**

**GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.**

**MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.**

**U.S. BANCORP**

**WACHOVIA CORPORATION**